Learning Conversation Notes		
Name of Partner:	Date:	
Golden Sierra Life Skills –	March 7, 2006	
Men, Infant, Children (MIC) Program		
Number of Children Served:	Ages: 0 yr - 1(21), 2 yr (3),	
	3 yr (4), 4 yr (7), 5 yr (7)	
When Served:	Gender:	Ethnicity:
November 2005 – February 2006	21-Male	17 - Caucasian
Roseville, King's Beach, Auburn	21-Female	21 – Hispanic
		3 – Other
		1 – Native American

Conversation Participants: Tom Grayson, Nancy Baggett, Michael Romero, Janice Critchlow, Don Ferretti, Barbara Guenther, Debbie Dahl, Paul Lopez, Carlos Antonio, Diane Bras, Linda Farley, Cesar Acosta

Outcomes:

- 1. Fathers and father figures are more knowledgeable in child nurturing, child interacting, and parenting, and use these skills to promote their child's appropriate development.
- 2. The MIC Program will be financially sustainable independent of First 5 funding.

Performance Measures:

- 1. Demographics (number of 0-5 served by; gender, age, ethnicity, and when services were provided).
- 2. Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screens.
- 3. Pictures of children demonstrating Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screening indicators, including a written summary of the class discussion regarding these pictures.
- 4. Survey results of father / father figures change in their knowledge of child development, parenting, and their relationship with their children.
- 5. Grant applications submitted, and funding received to enhance and sustain the MIC Program independent of First 5 funding.

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes? <u>Demographics</u>

- For the Auburn class, 1 referral came form the Children's System of Care
- 4 referrals came from the Court Facilitator's Office
- It is good that Latino fathers are being served through a Latino version of MIC, as it is a large number of fathers served through the MIC Program.
- Cesar, the facilitator in King's Beach, goes out into the community and recruits fathers, which has really made a difference in the area as he is a figure that is trusted in the community.
- One on one communication by a trusted figure in the community is helpful to bringing in Latino fathers.
- Data shows there is a market and a need for the MIC Program throughout the county.

- MIC was able to target and identify information that is important to fathers who are Latino.
- 5 –10 referrals came from the teen parenting group.
- In the Auburn and Roseville Latino Programs, the majority are first time fathers.
- King's Beach Latino MIC Program
 - Large number of young children aged 1 and under
 - Approximately 3 were new fathers
 - Involvement may have been due to problems with their children & urging by their partner
 - Many are parents that know the facilitator through his other affiliation in the community

Placer Early Childhood Outcomes Screen (attached)

- Used the screening tool as an educational tool had 100% participation.
- In using the screening tool as an educational tool, the tool shows the father the 'child development target' they are shooting for.
- Fathers were in good shape when they entered the program probably due to the high number of fathers of children under the age of 1.
- Very few fathers were in crisis when they entered the program.
- Fathers' knowledge remained fairly constant throughout program delivery.
- Indicator #17 fathers improved for a variety of reasons, including: continued MIC participation, joining AA, received counseling, supported each other, accessed public benefit programs, by way of example.
- Indicator #18 fathers either stayed the same or improved and most experienced growth.
- Indicator #19 when fathers get better in their relationship with their child(ren), the children improve.
- Significant improvement is noted across all indicators.

Pictures (attached)

- Fathers were active in selecting / matching the correct "Cue" (see attached document) to the picture.
- Incorporating pictures into the classroom dynamics, the picture provides an opportunity for discussion such as "why did you take that picture?" or "what were you thinking when you took that picture?".
- The pictures sometimes lead to the development of augmented curricula –
 a fine-tuning of the information to be delivered to a particular group of
 fathers. It also gives the facilitator an opportunity to go back and review
 information.
- Fathers understand that they share in the responsibility of child rearing.
- Even if the pictures don't show an exact indicator, it is still good to get people talking about appropriate child development across all indicators.
- The picture may have one intended effect, but by bringing it in to the class, there is an opportunity to discuss it more deeply and learn more.

Survey Results

- The program was valued and taught a King's Beach father the importance of reading to his child, the importance of educating his child, how to communicate to resolve problems and how to handle his child when tantrumming.
- A father from the Roseville / Auburn Latino class said that it helped him communicate better with his wife and child. As a result of the class, he understood that children need understanding and respect. Another father from the class said that he now understood how sensitive his son's brain is. The class activities refocused the father's aggressiveness to the development of the son's intellectual development.
- One father said he has the highest praise for the MIC Program because he learned how to engage in enrichment activities with his child, that his child should be his highest priority and that he should concentrate on positive development for his child.
- Dads are grateful that they have improved their relationship with their child(ren).
- Discussion of the Survey Results showed that fathers are invested in becoming better parents.

Grant Applications / Sustainability Plan (attached)

- Have applied for 1 grant, but did not receive. Will continue to apply for other grants.
- Entered into a partnership with Placer Community Action Council to sustain a portion of MIC.
- Will not be financially independent of First 5 funding by July 01, 2006.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

- If you have a valuable message to get out, it pays to get out into the community and build trust so that the program can build on the fathers needs. Trust is very important in the Latino community – if trust is not established, the program cannot be built. Also important in other communities of fathers.
- Fathers look forward to the picture taking and were very proud of the photographs of their child's / children's activities. They overcame their concerns about privacy.
- Positive changes can be made through parent education to fathers for the benefit of the child and the family.
- The pictures provide an opportunity for further education broaden the information provided in the class. In the future, seek out additional opportunities to expand the education.
- If healthy adult relationships are not established between the parents, impacts are made on the child and the child's future development.
- MIC is open to continually fine-tune the program for fathers. Important to be open minded to each father and his individual needs.

• Establishing trust, using visuals and pictures of the focus child(ren) are important strategies to making the program a success.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

- Funding is used to educate fathers with the intention that the education will trickle down to the relationships with their children.
- MIC programs are held at the following locations: King's Beach, Roseville, and Auburn. Fathers also come from the Head Start / Early Head Start program (Placer Community Action Council).
- It takes time for parents to change their behaviors.
- In the Hispanic culture, there is not a lot of information available to fathers on positive child raising practices.
- An Auburn father in the Latino class told the facilitator that he now could understand how his children think and how his children may develop at different rates. By the end of the class, he felt that his children now love him.
- Facilitators model appropriate behavior.
- Many Latino fathers have come from a harsh environment and learned how to adapt and shift to develop a different type of life for their child(ren) and family.
- Facilitation in Spanish is key to serving the needs of Latino fathers.
- MIC is effective because fathers have an interest in changing. It identifies
 the loneliness that fathers can experience and gives them information so
 they don't pass it on negative behavior to their children.
- Its not just another parenting class MIC graduates behave differently from other parenting class graduates and function with more maturity.
 Too bad there is not such a program for mothers as noted by the Court Facilitator.

MIC Program – Overall Comments

- Fathers are able to see the way their behavior impacts their child and their child's development.
- Initial checklist provides a template for information to be covered to a group of fathers.
- KIISS, Safe Kids & UC Extension/Early Childhood Nutrition partnered to provide information to MIC participants. KIISS provided a presentation in person, which had a greater impact than the use of displays and program materials.

Next Steps:

- Make sure the demographic numbers are updated to the period of service.
- Meet again in October 2006, Wednesday October 18th, 1 − 4:30.
- Try to get more anecdotal data about how the fathers are using and applying the information learned. Add a question to the survey.